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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claim in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): Muffler assembly used for a boat or vehicle, said muffler assembly being installed between the engine and the engine exhaust discharge point of said boat or vehicle, said muffler assembly having an exhaust entry pipe, a generally permanent outer housing and a removable and replaceable internal core assembly which is inserted into and removed from said permanent outer housing, said muffler assembly and said internal core assembly having guide and positioning elements to correctly position said internal core assembly within said outer housing, said removable and replaceable internal core assembly having an inlet entrance which connects directly to said exhaust entry pipe of said muffler assembly such that said engine exhaust of said boat or vehicle moves directly from said exhaust entry pipe into said replaceable internal core assembly.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Muffler assembly as in claim 1 wherein said internal core assembly includes a sound reduction element and/or or a filter element to reduce sound emanating from said engine and to reduce engine contamination from said discharge of said muffler assembly.

Claim 3 (previously presented): Muffler assembly as in claim 1 wherein said internal core assembly includes only sound reduction elements.

Claim 4 (currently amended): Muffler assembly as in claim [[2]] 1 wherein said internal core assembly includes only filter elements.

Claim 5 (previously presented): Muffler assembly as

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in claim 1 wherein said internal core assembly includes filter and sound reduction elements.

Claim 6 (currently amended): Muffler assembly as in claim 1 wherein said guide and positioning elements include said [[an]] exhaust entry pipe and a complementary female pipe being said inlet entrance of said replaceable internal core assembly. ~~adapted to fit with said exhaust entry pipe.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): Muffler assembly as in claim 1 wherein said internal core assembly includes a backing plate and wherein said backing plate forms a sealing relationship with said housing.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Muffler assembly as in claim 7 wherein said sound reducing element ~~and/or~~ or filter element is connected to said backing plate.

Claim 9 (previously presented): Muffler assembly as in claim 8 and further comprising a threaded connection between said internal core assembly and said housing.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A replaceable internal core assembly for a muffler assembly having a housing, said internal core assembly being removable from said muffler assembly and comprising at least one sound reducing element ~~and/or~~ or at least one emission reduction element, a sealing plate adapted to engage with said housing and to form a seal between said housing and said internal core assembly, [[and]] means to guide said internal core assembly into said housing and to maintain said internal core assembly in a removable relationship with said housing, said muffler assembly having an exhaust entry point and said internal core assembly having an inlet entrance, said inlet entrance connecting directly with said exhaust entry point to prevent dispersal of the exhaust between said exhaust entry point and said internal core assembly.

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Claim 11 (previously presented): An internal core assembly as in claim 10 wherein said means to maintain said internal core assembly within said housing is a threaded connection.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A replaceable internal core assembly for a muffler assembly, said internal core assembly being removable from said muffler assembly and comprising at least one filter element, a sealing plate adapted to engage with said housing and to form a seal between said housing and said internal core assembly and means to maintain said internal core assembly in a removable relationship with said housing, said muffler assembly having an exhaust entry pipe and said internal core assembly having an exhaust inlet, said exhaust inlet being connected directly to said exhaust entry pipe to prevent dispersal of exhaust within said muffler assembly between said exhaust entry pipe and said internal core assembly.

Claim 13 [[12]] (currently amended): A replaceable internal core assembly for a muffler assembly having an exhaust entry point, said internal core assembly having an inlet entrance, said internal core assembly being removable from said muffler assembly and comprising at least one emission reduction element, a sealing plate adapted to engage with the said housing of said muffler assembly and to form a seal between said housing and said internal core assembly, [[and]] means to maintain said internal core assembly in a removable relationship with said housing, said inlet entrance of said internal core assembly being connected directly to said exhaust entry point thereby to prevent dispersal of the engine exhaust within said muffler assembly between said exhaust entry point and said internal core assembly.

Claim 14 [[13]] (currently amended): Internal core assembly as in claim [[11]] 13 wherein said internal core assembly further includes a tailpipe extending from said sealing plate for emitting said engine exhaust.

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Claim 15 [[14]] (currently amended): Method of installing a replaceable internal core assembly within a muffler assembly having a housing, said method comprising the steps of inserting said replaceable internal core assembly through an opening in said housing, correctly positioning said internal core assembly within said housing and sealing said internal core assembly with and retaining said internal core assembly within said housing in a removable relationship with said housing, said muffler assembly having an engine exhaust inlet and said internal core assembly having an exhaust inlet entrance, said exhaust inlet entrance of said internal core assembly being connected directly to said engine exhaust inlet of said muffler assembly to prevent dispersal of the exhaust between the engine exhaust inlet and the exhaust inlet entrance of said internal core assembly.

Claim 16 [[15]] (currently amended): Method as in claim [[14]] 15 wherein said internal core assembly is correctly positioned within said housing using guide means on either of said housing or said internal core assembly.

Claim 17 [[16]] (currently amended): Method as in claim [[15]] 16 wherein said guide means is a pipe.

Claim 18 [[17]] (currently amended): Method as in claim [[14]] 15 wherein said internal core assembly is retained in said housing with a threaded connection.

Claim 19 [[18]] (currently amended): A cartridge for insertion into a muffler casing, said cartridge containing at least one exhaust treatment element and being sealed prior to installation in said muffler casing, said muffler casing having an engine exhaust inlet, said cartridge containing an entrance for the ingress of exhaust from an engine and an exitway for the egress of said exhaust following treatment of said exhaust within said cartridge, said entrance of said cartridge being operable to be connected directly to said engine exhaust inlet of said muffler casing.

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Claim 20 [[19]] (currently amended) A cartridge as in claim 19 [[18]] wherein said cartridge is enclosed by a gas tight enclosure.

Claim 21 [[20]] (currently amended) A cartridge as in claim [[19]] 20 and further comprising retention means to secure said cartridge within said muffler casing during operation of said engine and entry of exhaust from said engine into said cartridge.

Claim 22 [[21]] (currently amended) A cartridge as in claim [[20]] 21 wherein said at least one treatment element apparatus comprises a catalyst acting on said exhaust.

Claim 23 [[22]] (currently amended) A cartridge as in claim [[20]] 21 wherein said at least one treatment element apparatus utilises power applied to said cartridge.

Claim 24 [[23]] (currently amended) A cartridge as in claim [[20]] 21 and further comprising an end cap to secure said cartridge within said casing and to act on said cartridge during operation of said cartridge and casing.

Claim 25 [[24]] (currently amended) Method of treating exhaust emanating from an engine comprising inserting a cartridge into a muffler casing, allowing said exhaust from said engine to directly enter said cartridge by way of an exhaust inlet without dispersal of exhaust between said exhaust inlet of said muffler casing and said cartridge, treating said exhaust within said cartridge to remove environmentally objectionable materials from said engine exhaust and allowing said treated exhaust to pass from said cartridge.

Claim 26 [[25]] (currently amended) Method as in claim [[24]] 25 wherein said exhaust is treated by a catalyst within said cartridge.

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Claim 27 ~~[[26]]~~ (currently amended) Method as in
claim ~~[[25]]~~ 26 wherein said exhaust is further treated by
high voltage within said cartridge.